



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 25, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

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Population growth in 1995 was again one of the highest in the industrialized world (+1.3%), with over half the gains coming from immigration.
- **Youths and the labour market, spring 1997** 6  
The labour market has become a more precarious place for young people in the 1990s. The overall unemployment rate has tended to drift up over the last few decades, with the unemployment rate for youths (15- to 24-year-olds) consistently higher than that for adults.

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Catalogue no. 91-209-XPE

**Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada 1996**  
*Current Demographic Analysis*

Common-Law Unions in Canada at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

### Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1996

The *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1996* takes stock of the Canadian population, presents the most recent demographic trends in the various regions of the country and compares Canada with other industrialized nations. The report analyses trends in: population growth and its components, births, deaths, interprovincial and international migration, marriage, and divorce.

Part II of the report assesses a phenomenon that has grown substantially over the last two decades: common-law unions. The report studies the evolution of the phenomenon, the principal factors associated with its spread and reviews some of its consequences. The analysis is based mainly on the results of Cycle 10 of the General Social Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada in 1995.

The *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1996* (91-209-XPE, \$30) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For further information, contact Jean Dumas (613-951-2327), or Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326; fax: 613-951-2952; Internet: [belaala@statcan.ca](mailto:belaala@statcan.ca)), Research and Analysis Section, Demography Division

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Report on the demographic situation in Canada

Population growth in 1995 was again one of the highest in the industrialized world (+1.3%), with over half the gains coming from immigration. This growth is four and a half times higher than that of the European Economic Area, and higher than that of Australia and the United States.

The total fertility rate of 1.64 children per woman was practically unchanged from the year before. In addition, in 1994, the most recent year for which reliable estimates are available, life expectancy for both men and women does not show a noticeable gain compared with the preceding year. Men were expected to live 75.1 years and women 81.2.

Older age groups, however, faced more significant changes. Alzheimer's disease, for example, is claiming an increasing number of victims. In 1994, it caused more deaths than AIDS.

And for individuals over 50, a significant part of their gain in life expectancy over the past two decades (due to progress in controlling certain diseases) was lost because of higher mortality from cancer of the respiratory system.

#### Lung cancer slowing life expectancy gains

Between 1971 and 1993, the life expectancy for women at age 50 increased by only 2.9 years (to 33.0 years), compared with 3.3 years for men (to 28.0 years).

The life expectancy for women did not gain as much as men for one reason: A substantial part of the gain due to the reduction in mortality from disease of the circulatory system was offset by an increase in deaths from cancer of the respiratory system, especially lung cancer.

In fact, the life expectancy for women at age 50 would have been half a year higher had it not been for the increase in lung cancer mortality. It was the same case for men at age 50, although not as severe — their increase in life expectancy would have been a quarter of a year.

In other words, for the Canadian population as a whole, cancer is the only major cause of death for which the increase in mortality is not just a result of population aging. The rates of all other major causes of death would have fallen even more if not for the aging of the population.

For example, progress in the prevention and cure of heart disease would have reduced the death rate

#### Note to readers

*This release is based on the Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1996, available today. As in the past, Part I of the report takes stock of the Canadian population, presents the most recent demographic trends in the various regions of the country and compares Canada with other industrialized nations. The report analyses trends in: population growth and its components, births, deaths, interprovincial and international migration, marriage, and divorce.*

*Part II of the report assesses a phenomenon that has grown substantially over the last two decades: common-law unions. The report studies the evolution of the phenomenon, the principal factors associated with its spread and reviews some of its consequences. The analysis is based mainly on the results of Cycle 10 of the General Social Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada in 1995.*

by 2.2 per 1,000 if the aging of the population had not absorbed 1.3 per 1,000 of the drop. For cancer, however, the increase in its incidence is in addition to the impact of aging.

#### Alzheimer's disease increasing

The number of victims of Alzheimer's disease has increased rapidly since it was first identified. In 1994, it claimed more people than AIDS. Alzheimer's killed 1,685 women and 859 men, compared with 139 women and 1,489 men dying from AIDS.

Although about twice as many females die from Alzheimer's as males, Alzheimer's differs from AIDS in that there is not a marked difference between the sexes in age-specific death rates. The difference in numbers of deaths reflects the larger number of women in the age groups most affected by this disease, whose incidence increases with age.

#### Some demographic features of Canadian society

For the fourth consecutive year, Newfoundland's total fertility rate fell, and in 1995 it was the lowest of any Canadian province at 1.25 children per woman. In 1986, Quebec had the lowest total fertility rate of any province at 1.37 children per woman.

After increasing over the past two decades, Quebec's suicide rate became the highest in Canada. Between 1990 and 1994, Quebec averaged 27.2 suicides for every 100,000 people, compared with an average of only 16.3 between 1970 and 1974. The rate in most other provinces has fallen.

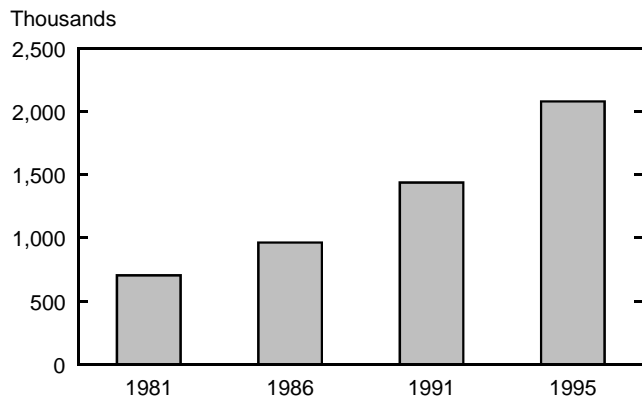
In 1994, Canada's total abortion rate rose slightly to 487 per 1,000 women compared with 480 in 1993. More important, the percentage of women who had a second abortion increased sharply from 11% in 1975 to 34% in 1994.

Canada's divorce rate rose slightly in 1994: out of 10,000 marriages, 3,855 would end in divorce if current rates are maintained. However, the increase is too small to be interpreted as evidence of an increasing propensity to get divorced. By contrast, the rate of first marriages has stabilized over the past two years after declining for a number of years. It is too early to say whether this indicates a halt in the downward trend.

### Common-law unions at the end of the 20th Century

Between 1981 and 1995, Canadians in common-law unions rose from 700,000 to almost 2 million. While only 1 couple in 16 was in a common-law union in 1981, this was true of 1 couple in 7 by 1995. According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, in 1995 almost 6 million Canadians, or 26% of the population 15 and over, were in, or had been in a common-law union at some time.

Common-law unions



The phenomenon has not developed at the same rate in all parts of the country and national figures hide important regional variations. In 1995, 1 couple out of 4 in Quebec was in a common-law union, compared with 1 in 10 in the rest of the country, and 1 couple in 14 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

### Percentage of couples in a common-law union

	1981	1986	1991	1995
Atlantic	3.9	5.5	8.7	11.2
Quebec	8.2	12.5	19.0	25.0
Ontario	5.0	6.2	7.5	9.9
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	4.7	6.0	8.1	7.1
Alberta	7.7	8.3	10.1	12.2
British Columbia	7.9	8.5	11.2	13.8
Canada less Quebec	5.6	6.7	8.6	10.7
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>14.3</b>

### The fertility of common-law unions

For Canada as a whole, between 1985 and 1994, women whose entire fertile life was passed in a marriage would have almost double the number of children (2.87) as women whose fertile life was in a common-law union (1.44).

Quebec is markedly different from the rest of Canada in the fertility of women in common-law unions. Between 1975 and 1984, for example, the total fertility rate for common-law unions was 60% higher in Quebec compared with the rest of Canada.

Between the decades 1975 to 1984 and 1985 to 1994, the fertility of common-law unions in Quebec grew only 5% while in the rest of Canada it rose a substantial 40%. This reduced the gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada, but failed to close it. In the decade up to 1994, the fertility of common-law unions was 1.58 children per woman in Quebec, compared with 1.30 in the rest of Canada.

### From trial marriage to replacing marriage

Today, people in a common-law relationship are less and less inclined to subsequently legalize their union. From the late 1970s to the early 1990s, the proportion of first common-law unions which were transformed into marriages within three years fell by half, from 38% of first common-law unions to 18%.

For an increasing number of Canadians, marriage no longer appeared to be a prerequisite to starting a family. During the late 1970s, about 20,000 people a year entered a common-law union and had a child within three years without getting married. By the beginning of the 1990s, more than 52,000 Canadians a year were doing the same thing.

In Quebec between 1990 and 1994, four in five persons entering a union for the first time entered a common-law union, while only one out of five got married. In the rest of Canada, about equal numbers chose a common-law union or a marriage as their first union.

The *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1996* (91-209-XPE, \$30) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Jean Dumas (613-951-2327), or Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326;

fax: 613-951-2952; Internet: [belaala@statcan.ca](mailto:belaala@statcan.ca)), Research and Analysis Section, Demography Division. ■

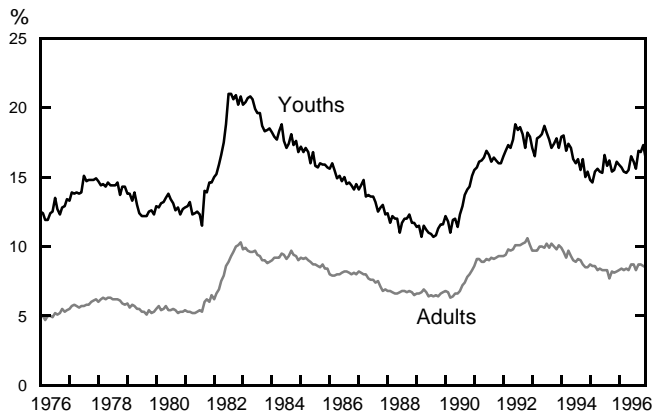
## Youths and the labour market

Spring 1997

The labour market has become a more precarious place for young people in the 1990s. The overall unemployment rate has tended to drift up over the last few decades, with the unemployment rate for youths (15- to 24-year-olds) consistently higher than that for adults. In addition, the gap between the youth and the overall unemployment rates has widened over the nineties.

The youth employment rate (i.e., the number of employed youths divided by the total number of 15- to 24-year-olds), at 51.1% in 1996, has fallen more than 11 percentage points since 1989. Labour market participation for this demographic group has also fallen dramatically over the same period, dropping over 10 percentage points to 61.2%.

**Unemployment rate for youths consistently higher than for adults**

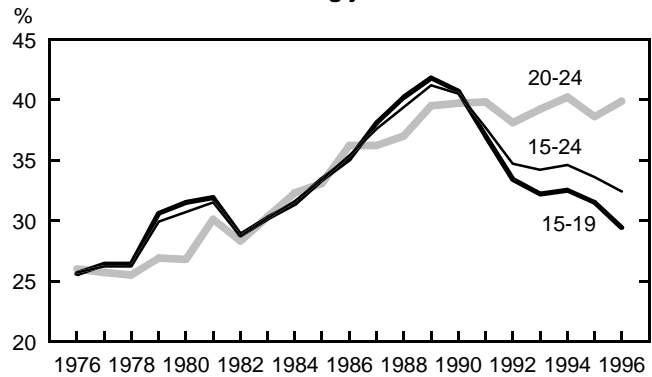


The percentage of working youths employed part time (working less than 30 hours per week at their main job) more than doubled between 1976 and 1996, increasing from 21% to 46%. This trend partly reflects the growing popularity of school, since 90% of both male and female students with jobs work part time. While only 52% of youths were going to school in 1989, by 1996 this proportion had increased to 60%. Most of the gain has been in full-time attendance and was most pronounced for older youths (20- to 24-year-olds).

Compared with 1989, students are less likely to be juggling work and full-time school. Over the 1980s, the proportion of youths who attended school full time and who worked increased dramatically. In the early 1990s, the trend reversed, as job opportunities became more scarce for teenage students. Still, 32% of youths who were going to school full time were also working,

primarily in the business and personal services or retail trade industries. In 1996, the average work week for full-time students who had jobs was 14 hours.

**Full-time students holding jobs**



Note: October-to-December average.

Fewer students are finding summer jobs. It appears that poor labour market conditions in the 1990s for youths in general have extended to the area of summer jobs, leading to falling summer labour market participation. Many students, however, do search for work but are unsuccessful and miss out on both the work experience and financial remuneration. In July 1996, 52% of youths had summer jobs, compared with 69% in July 1989. Over the same period, and despite a large drop in summer labour market participation, the summer unemployment rate for students rose steadily from 10.1% in 1989 to 18.4% in 1996.

Along with weakened summer labour market conditions has come an increase in the length of the job search. The average duration of unemployment in August 1996 was considerably higher than during the same month in 1989 at 11 weeks compared with 6.3 weeks. The quality of summer jobs has also suffered. Those who do find summer employment are much more likely than before to work only part time. During the summer of 1989, less than half of students worked part time. This compares with 58% in 1996.

Finally, once students leave school, the data indicates they are having greater difficulty making the transition into the work force. Although they have more education and are generally older than their counterparts in 1989, non-student youths have a very high unemployment rate. Consequently, perhaps more youths are combining school and work and delaying full-fledged entry into the work force. The school-to-work transition range has increased from six years in

1984 to eight years in 1996. Once non-student youths break into the ranks of the employed, they are more likely to be working fewer hours than their counterparts in the 1980s, generally resulting in poorer earnings.

The report *Labour force update: Youths and the labour market* (71-005-XPB, \$29/\$96) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; fax: 613-951-2869; Internet: bowlgeo@statcan.ca). ■

## OTHER RELEASES

### Employment insurance

January 1997 (preliminary adjusted data)

The estimated number of Canadians who received regular employment insurance benefits declined 6.1% in January to just over 619,000. Declines were recorded in all provinces and territories except the Yukon. The downward trend in the number of beneficiaries throughout 1996 continued into January, to reach levels not seen since the early 1980s.

Regular benefit payments increased 0.8% in January to \$766 million. Seven provinces and territories recorded increases led by Quebec (+2.3%) and Ontario (+1.2%). Payments have remained flat for the last seven months.

### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1996 to Jan. 1997
	seasonally adjusted	
	% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>619,380</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Newfoundland	37,110	-2.3
Prince Edward Island	9,740	-2.1
Nova Scotia	33,550	-4.1
New Brunswick	39,370	-4.2
Quebec	213,950	-5.1
Ontario	159,900	-6.3
Manitoba	13,770	-11.2
Saskatchewan	9,920	-10.7
Alberta	33,250	-10.0
British Columbia	68,870	-4.8
Yukon	1,160	7.9
Northwest Territories	1,170	-7.1

The number of individuals who applied for employment insurance benefits in January increased 3.5% to 241,000, returning to the October 1996 level. Led by Ontario (+8.3%), 10 provinces and territories recorded increases.

### Employment insurance statistics

	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1996 to Jan. 1997
	seasonally adjusted		
	% change		
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	660 <sup>P</sup>	619 <sup>P</sup>	-6.1
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	760.3	766.1	0.8
Claims ('000)	233	241	3.5
	Jan. 1996	Jan. 1997	Jan. 1996 to Jan. 1997
	unadjusted		
	% change		
All beneficiaries ('000)	1,169	1,008 <sup>P</sup>	-13.8
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	935	808 <sup>P</sup>	-13.6
Claims ('000)	374	351	-6.0
Payments (\$ millions)	1,547.3	1,405.5	-9.2

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717.**

**Note:** The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained by the difference in their time frames. The number of beneficiaries is a one week census of the month (the week containing the 15th day of the month), whereas the benefit payments is the total amount of money received by individuals for the entire month.

The yearly adjustment for the Christmas period to the weeks, benefits paid and claims data series have been completed, consequently there are revisions to the 1995 and 1996 seasonally adjusted data series.

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. ■



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Construction type plywood**, January 1997  
**Catalogue number 35-001-XPB**  
 (Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**The Consumer Price Index**, February 1997  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB**  
 (Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120; other countries: US\$14/US\$140).

**Sentencing in adult provincial courts: A study of nine jurisdictions**, 1993 and 1994  
**Catalogue number 85-513-XPE**  
 (Canada: \$35; United States: US\$35; other countries: US\$35).

**Report on the demographic situation in Canada**, 1996  
**Catalogue number 91-209-XPE**  
 (Canada: \$30; United States: US\$30; other countries: US\$30).

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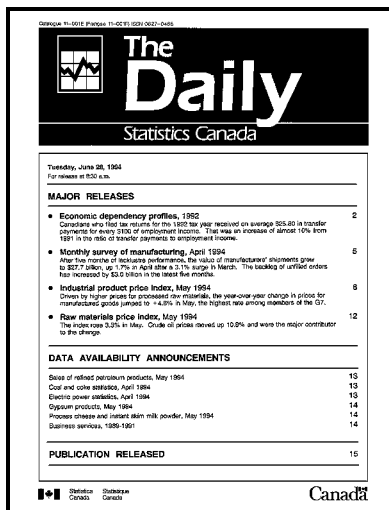
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